

See M. Martineau
P.S.M.

Notes on Rhode Island History

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Foreword

We send these notes on Rhode Island history to our boys and girls, feeling that by their learning the history of their own State they will be stirred to deeper patriotism, serving God and their country to the best of their powers.

We have compiled these facts with a special thought of the pupils of the Cleary Grammar School, which has the honor of being the first school in the State to observe Rhode Island Day Exercises—1904.

*The = Sister M. Bartholomew
Clarke*

S. M. Poeta Clarke

GEOGRAPHY OF RHODE ISLAND.

The slope of Rhode Island is southerly.

Rhode Island is highest in the northern part.

Dwell on the map of Rhode Island, its shape:

Greatest length, $47\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Greatest width, 40 miles.

Latitude, 41 degrees, 49 minutes, 22 seconds N.

Longitude, 71 degrees, 24 minutes, 48 seconds W.

Area, 1,250 square miles.

Boundaries of Rhode Island:

Coast

Indented much or little.

High or low.

Sandy or rocky.

Sounds—Block Island Sound.

Indentations

Narragansett Bay.
Providence Harbor.
Providence River.
Greenwich Bay.
Sand Hill Cove.
Bullocks Creek.
Barrington River.
Bristol Harbor.
Mt. Hope Bay.
Newport Harbor.
Coaster's Island Harbor.
Coddington Cove.
Dutch Island Harbor.
Potter's Cove.

Projections

Fields Point.
Gaspee Point.
Rocky Point.
Warwick Point.
The Bonnett.
Boston Neck.
Point Judith.
Noyes Point.
Watch Hill Point.
Fox Point.
India Point.
Kettle Point.
Bullocks Point.
Ochre Point.

Islands

Islands

Starve Goat Island.
Prudence.
Patience.
Aquidneck or R. I.
Coaster's Island.
Goat Island.
Canonicut (Capt. Kidd's home).
Lime Rock (Ida Lewis).
Dutch Island.
Brenton's Reef.
Block Island.

Conclude that Rhode Island is well watered.

Internal Construction—Water

Blackstone.
Providence.
Seekonk.
Moshassuck.
Pawtuxet.
Pawcatuck.
Wood.

Rhode Island is hilly.

Internal Construction—Land

Durfee Hill.
Diamond.
Woonsocket.
Pine.
Benson.
Acote (Dorr intrenched his army)

Counties of Rhode Island—Bristol, Kent, Washington, Newport, Providence.

Cities of Rhode Island—Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Central Falls, Newport, Cranston.

Rivers afford good water power.

Minerals—Granite, limestone, coal.

Manufactured and Woolen Goods—Jewelry, screws, silverware, clothing, boots and shoes, hardware, sewing machines, muskets.

Minerals of Rhode Island—Coal, Valley Falls, Cranston, Portsmouth. The mines at Portsmouth are now being worked. In one shop window we notice Portsmouth coal for sale.

Harbors—Providence, Newport, Bristol, Greenwich.

Newport harbor is considered the best protected harbor in the country. Guarded by Fort Adams.

HOW RHODE ISLAND GOT ITS NAME.

Block was probably the real discoverer of Rhode Island. After him Block Island was named. Now comes the question: Whence

came the name Rhode Island? Some say that it was named after the Island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean Sea.

Block sailed through Hell Gate and then up the Connecticut River. There he noticed a superabundance of red stones and was struck with their appearance. He then came to Newport harbor and noticed what appeared to him a superabundance of this same stone that he had seen in the Connecticut River.

In 1646 the Legislature met and named the island on which so much of this stone had been seen Red Island.

But we are told that Block saw no red stones. He saw red trees and a variety of red roses. Why shouldn't he have called it Rosy Island? From this we would infer that Block called the island Rose Island and not Red Island.

GEOLOGY OF RHODE ISLAND.

The geology of Rhode Island has influenced the agricultural, commercial and manufacturing interest of the State.

The principal feature of the State is Narragansett Bay. Five of the 38 towns of the State are situated on islands, and the separation thus caused among the early inhabitants gave rise to separatism of many of the oldest families. In the South county this was particularly marked where this condition made the Narragansett county one of large estates, with mansions, slave quarters, lavish hospitality and a society with a Southern flavor.

Formation of the Land.

The second largest physical feature of the State is the effect of the glacial epoch on the formation of the land. In the pre-glacial period the land was smoother, and the rivers had evenly graded beds, and ran more evenly into the ocean as the land was higher above the sea. The changes made by the great ice sheet caused the rapids and ponds along the streams, which led to the establishment of manufacturing places in later times so that after agricultural prosperity waned, the State became a manufacturing center.

Blackstone River.

One of the most interesting glacial changes in Rhode Island is that of the bed of the Blackstone River. There seems to be ample proof that the original Blackstone ran through what is now the bed of the Mosshassuck and that the masses of ice placed a barrier in the way, causing the stream to run to the eastward and making the falls now at Lonsdale, Valley Falls, Central Falls and Pawtucket.

THE AGE OF ROGER WILLIAMS.

The age of Roger Williams in Rhode Island centers about six historic names and four geographical points. The names are Roger

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Williams and William Harris, William Coddington and John Clarke, Samuel Gorton and Anne Hutchinson. The points are Providence and Warwick on the Rhode Island mainland and Newport and Portsmouth on the island of Aquidneck.

Roger Williams Driven Out of Salem for His Religious Views.

In the midst of a New England storm, Governor Winthrop told Williams to steer his course to Narragansett Bay. For fourteen weeks he traveled in the wilderness, sheltered, we must believe, by friendly Indians. Let us add here that Williams understood the Indian language and always had a kindly feeling for the Indians.

He first landed or stopped at Seekonk, now Rehoboth. He was joined here by his five companions; they remained here for the winter, but received a letter from Winslow to move on as they were on Massachusetts land.

Mr. Williams, unwilling to provoke a quarrel with the authorities of the Bay and of Plymouth, although by so doing he endangered the year's harvest and abandoned his plantation. William Harris, John Smith and Josua Verin, Thomas Angel and Francis Wicks pushed out a canoe from the east side of the Seekonk, crossed into the cove and landed upon the Slate Rock. Here they found the Indians and their squaws baking clams.

The Indians sent forth a salutation to the voyagers, with the cry: "What Cheer!" These were the friendly Narragansetts, who under the direction of Canonicus and Miantonomi, had refused the appeals of the war-like Sassacus and the Pequods to join in a confederated effort to expell the English.

Williams and his companions landed and returned the friendly greeting. From this moment the history of Rhode Island may be said to commence.

The site where this interview took place and the land adjoining it received from the first settlers the name of What Cheer, and by this name it is known in the ancient title deeds.

Then re-embarking, the six rounded the promontory including India Point and Fox Point and entered an estuary of Narragansett Bay.

Proceeding until they reached the mouth of the Moshassuck just below the site of the present St. John's Church, where a fine spring of water tempted them and here they made their home which has in the process of time, become our beautiful City of Providence and which has taken for the motto upon its corporate seal, the legend, "What Cheer."

Six-Acre Lots.

✓ The first comers planted their corn where they landed and when their numbers increased they laid out what is now the main street on the east side of the river and divided the land eastward into lots of six acres each, being of equal breadth and extending back to Hope street. There were one hundred and two of these lots.

After
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✓ Roger Williams' six-acre lot was the place where he first landed. The street now known as Bowen street, leading from Main to Benefit, divided his lot nearly in the middle.

Government.

✓ The government which, under Williams, was first instituted at Providence was by "masters of families." The masters went once every two weeks and despatched business by mutual consent. But in the first year several young men sought equal representation and freedom of voting. *P. 31, ↓*

August 20, 1637, the "second comers," thirteen in number, subscribed to the "civil compact." Thomas Harris, Benedict Arnold, Richard Scott, Chad Brown and John Field were included among the signers. These signers were "second comers" and the adoption of our famous Magna Charta was the result. The matter of this compact differed not from the Mayflower compact.

The government was the simplest form of democracy and it could not last long. In 1644 the then independent colonies of Rhode Island feeling their lack of sovereign power in their detached weakness, had sent Williams to England. He found favor, and through his powerful friends secured from the Parliamentary Commission, March 17, 1644, a Free Charter of Civil Incorporation and Government for the Providence Plantations in the Narragansett Bay in New England. It was a real government charter, bestowing upon the people the power to rule by whatever laws they desired.

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The exiled Williams returned through Massachusetts. At home his arrival was hailed with delight. Fourteen canoes met him at Seekonk and the voyagers filled the air with shouts of welcome.

Charter of 1663.

Cont
John Winthrop, the younger, obtained a charter from King Charles II, giving Connecticut jurisdiction over all Southern Narragansett. This movement in London was checked by the discreet and vigorous action of John Clarke, our agent there. He convinced the King's advisers of the great injustice that would be done to Rhode Island by this act of extending Connecticut over her territory. Clarke obtained the liberal charter, which was adopted by the whole colony in 1663.

Rhode Island, like Connecticut, came very near losing her charter. In 1686 the whole of New England had been made a royal province under Sir Edmund Andros—the chartered liberties of Connecticut and Rhode Island seemed to be forfeited.

In 1687, while Andros was on a visit to Newport he demanded the charter, but, like the Connecticut charter, it found a hiding place. Rhode Island was governed by this charter until 1843.

Let our boys and girls in their visit to the State House ask to

see this great instrument. It will be found in the office of the Secretary of State.

Indians of Rhode Island.

The Indians in Rhode Island at the time of Williams' coming were the Narragansetts, Pequots, Mohigans and Wampanoags. Of all the tribes of southern New England, the Narragansetts were the most numerous, numbering about 30,000.

The sachems, Canonicus and Miantonomi, were men of unusual qualities. These Narragansetts exercised supremacy over all neighboring tribes. They were courageous, tolerant, hospitable and forgiving. Physically and mentally they were a powerful race. They carried agriculture to the highest point, coined and issued currency, possessed a mercantile system, fully appreciated morality, integrity, honor. In personal appearance they were tall, erect, strong, high cheek bones, piercing eyes, straight black hair.

Crime was unknown to them. Their noticeable virtue was hospitality. They often slept out of doors so as to accommodate their guests; held that every man's word should be as good as his bond.

Government. Monarchical—power vested in sachems.

These Indians were famous merchants. Money was made from quahaug shells. In the famous King Philip War many of these Indians took sides with the colonists.

Indian trails: Meeting, Power, Steeple and North Main streets.

Site of stockade on Stampers street.

Kingston was the royal seat of the Narragansett Kings, the place of residence of two of the greatest men of the age in which they lived—Canonicus and Miantonomi. These two kings or sachems owned all the land from Pawcatuck River and Point Judith to Pawtucket River and the north end of Smithfield. Roger Williams bought the whole town of Providence from them.

Indian Warfare.

Rhode Island had very little share in the Indian wars, owing to the peaceable relations between the Indians and Roger Williams. In fact, we are told that many of the Indians joined with the whites of Rhode Island for protection.

The great Swamp Fight, which occurred in South Kingston, was fought between the Narragansett Indians and the Massachusetts soldiers.

The real cause of hostilities was the death of Alexander, the oldest son of Massasoit. In 1662, Alexander had been arrested by order of the Government of Plymouth, on suspicion of conspiracy, and during his imprisonment died of fever. It was thought by the Indians that he had been poisoned. His successor was Philip.

Philip resolved to avenge Alexander's death, and in June, 1675, went into the central part of Massachusetts. At this time the war sachem of the Narragansetts was Canonchet, a son of Miantonomi,

who regarded this war as an opportunity to avenge the death of his father. He lent whatever aid he could against Plymouth and Massachusetts.

In December, Plymouth, Massachusetts and Connecticut invaded the Narragansett county. They inflicted on the Indians a crushing defeat.

Early in 1673, the Narragansetts burned Warwick and a portion of Providence. In April, Canonchet was captured and put to death. The final event was the killing of Philip himself by a force under Captain Church.

Driven from place to place, he concealed himself in a swamp at the foot of his ancient stronghold of Mount Hope.

Captain Church was told of his whereabouts, and, secretly invading the spot at night, found his prey. The entrapped sachem made a bold dash for liberty, but was shot through the heart by one of Church's men and fell headlong in the mud and water.

A NEST OF PIRATES.

In 1690 the colonists were very much afraid of the French in Canada, as England and France were continually at war. The colonists thought that the French in Canada would avenge themselves on England's unprotected subjects.

Narragansett Bay at that time was called a nest of pirates because Rhode Islanders fitted out privateers to defend themselves against Canadians, but fell into dishonest ways; hence name given to bay.

From 1638-1676 Newport was supreme in wealth, in harbor facilities and in education. Newport was the chief town and quarter for trade.

The exports of the colony in those days were lumber, staves, hoops, beef, pork, butter, cheese, onions, horses, hides, cider, Indian corn, wax.

Imports: Sugar, molasses, salt, woolen and linen goods.

NEWPORT.

As a result of the sea power of Rhode Island, was the rise into commercial, social and intellectual importance of the town of Newport.

In 1675 the exportations from Newport of lumber, horses, pork, butter and cheese had become considerable. At the West Indies these were exchanged for sugar and molasses. Therefore Newport during the seventeenth century and a part of the eighteenth, became a great sugar and molasses mart. In the second quarter of the eighteenth century its slave trade arose, and to this traffic Newport owes its golden age.

From an agricultural section Newport looked to the sea. She

turned her attention to ship-building; also at this time there began to appear merchants of note.

The sugar and molasses which had been coming into Newport were distilled into New England rum, and this article found a ready market in the West Indies.

In 1731, when Governor Joseph Jenks made his report to the Lords of Trade, it is evident that sugar and molasses on the one hand, and rum on the other, were the staples of Newport prosperity.

In 1707 Newport consisted of four hundred houses.

In 1731 the center of life was the parade at the head of which stood Colony House. Into the parade Thames street opened and from it projected Long Wharf. The principal dwellings were about the parade and on Thames street. Long Wharf was an active place for Newport's four hundred seamen.

Between 1739 and 1760 the trade in slaves was at its height, and by means of this trade was amassed the wealth which formed the foundation of Newport society and Newport culture.

By the early trade in molasses and rum; by the privateering; by the slave trade and finally by commercial ventures, Newport was so great in wealth and importance, yet still behind Boston. Some one was bold enough to say New York one day might equal Newport. ✓

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR MADE PROVIDENCE.

When the British left Newport they left it a shadow of itself. Newport cast a backward look upon its slave trade by which she had grown rich.

For the commercial decline of Newport as also of Bristol and Warren, there were four reasons: Foreign interference with American ships, the Embargo Acts of 1807 and 1809, the War of 1812, and the introduction of railroads. Providence was also effected by these causes, but was able to take up manufacturing.

Newport could not do this, she had no Blackstone with its falls, no swift Pawtuxet—in a word—no water power.

Providence at the close of the Revolutionary War looked backward as well as forward.

Its first glance, however, was forward. In December, 1789, began the manufacture of cotton by Samuel Slater.

Rhode Island cast backward glances. Commerce in Providence received an impetus through John Brown, who built wharves and shipyards at India Point, and in 1787 sent his ship "Washington" to India and China, the first Oriental voyage from our city. This opened a new world for our commerce.

Commerce continued for some years, but finally waned and Providence became a manufacturing center.

However, Providence may yet revive its commerce. Action has been taken to widen the harbor and in a very short time a line will be established between Marseilles and Providence.

OLD STONE MILL.

When the British army were in possession of the island in the war of the Revolution, they removed the wooden roof and all the large beams and flooring of the second story of the building and applied them to the construction of the batteries. In this operation they threw down several feet of the stone work of the walls, leaving them less conspicuous from the harbor; and the hollow places in the wall, in which originally rested the ends of the timber that sustained the floor, confirm the statement.

RHODE ISLAND IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

In March, 1764, the English Parliament, Grenville, Prime Minister, voted that "It had a right to tax the colonies."

At length the Stamp Act, the Impost on Tea, and other outrages touched the chords which vibrated in thunder tones on the Narragansett in 1772.

The Stamp Act passed in 1765 was among the earliest deeds of oppression. Stamp Masters were appointed to carry it into execution. Three were thought sufficient for Rhode Island—Martin Howard, Dr. Moffat and Augustine Johnston—all resident in Newport. The crisis had now arrived—Johnston declared he would not act; Howard and Moffat had more courage—till the doors and windows of their houses, with all the furniture they contained, were in one night destroyed.

In the other colonies the Stamp Act Masters were compelled to abandon the service, and it is not impossible that the transactions in Newport hastened their decision.

An oath was exacted from the Governors of the colonies to support the Stamp Act. One Governor stoutly refused to take it, the Governor of Rhode Island, Governor Ward.

THE GASPEE.

In June occurred what has been styled the second act of violence to the British Crown, the capture and destruction of the Gaspee.

The Gaspee, armed schooner, commanded by Lieutenant Duddington, who had long vexed the coasters and other vessels entering the port of Providence, under pretence of searching for smuggled goods, chased a New York packet, commanded by Captain Lindsey, up the river. Lindsey was a better pilot than Duddington, and passed Namquit Point, so near that the Gaspee in following him grounded and, as it was high water and the tide leaving him, he stuck fast. When Lindsey arrived with the news a muster was made. On that famous night John Brown, Captain Abraham Whipple, John B. Hopkins, Dr. John Mawney, Benjamin Page, Joseph Bucklin, Turpin Smith, Ephram Brown, and about sixty companions with flint-lock

muskets, powder horns and bullets, organized their expedition in the Sabin Tavern at the corner of South Main and Planet streets, embarked from Fenner's Wharf at the foot of Planet street, rowed to Pawtuxet, where the Gaspee was aground on Namquit Point, boarded the schooner, shot the commander, sent the crew on shore and set the vessel on fire.

Governor Wanton issued a proclamation on the 12th of June, offering a reward of one hundred pounds for the names of the men who had committed this deed; though the men were well known, not one man was betrayed, while the Crown increased the reward to five hundred pounds.

1774—Rhode Island had its organized militia, known as Minute Men. It comprised all the able-bodied male persons between the ages of sixteen and sixty.

Congress of 1774—It was Rhode Island that recommended the Congress of 1774.

1775—Rhode Island was the first to recommend to Congress the establishment of a Continental Navy and gave it its first commander-in-chief, Esek Hopkins.

PROVIDENCE TEA PARTY.

On Thursday, March 1, 1775, about five o'clock in the afternoon, a great number of inhabitants assembled at Market Square where there were brought in about three hundred pounds of tea. A large fire was kindled and the tea cast into it. A tar barrel, Lord North's speech, Rivington's and Mills' and Hick's newspapers and other ingredients entered into the composition. There appeared great cheerfulness in committing to destruction so precious an article. On this occasion, the bells were tolled. Whilst the tea was burning, a spirited son of liberty went along the streets with his brush and lamp black, and obliterated the word "tea" on the shop signs.

JUNE 15, 1775.

On June 15, 1775, Captain Abraham Whipple, the leader of the Gaspee destroyers, captured a packet in the service of Captain Wallace of the frigate Rose, after a sharp encounter on both sides. Wallace had learned that Whipple led the attack on the Gaspee and wrote as follows: "You, Abraham Whipple, on the 10th day of June, 1772, burned the Gaspee and I will hang you at the yard arm. James Wallace."

Whipple replied: "To Sir James Wallace: Sir—Always catch a man before you hang him. Abraham Whipple."

MAY 1, 1776.

The last colonial assembly of Rhode Island met on the first day of May, 1776.

MAY 4, 1776.

Rhode Island, the oldest State in the Union, boldly declared her independence, May 4, 1776, two months before the congressional declaration. It solemnly renounced its allegiance to the British Crown, no longer closing with "God Save the King," but taking in its stead as expressive of their new relations, "God Save the United Colonies."

Rhode Island's early stand on the subject was largely due to the inspiration and example of her two leaders, Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward.

JULY 4, 1776.

Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery were the signers from Rhode Island of the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776.

BATTLE OF RHODE ISLAND.

After the British evacuated Boston, they landed at New York, some, however, remaining in Narragansett Bay.

The command was given to General Prescott, who made Newport his headquarters. Prescott paid many evening visits to his friends. William Barton, observing this, formed in his mind a plan to capture Prescott. He accomplished it and Prescott, while a prisoner in Rhode Island, was quartered in Providence.

Sullivan was put in charge of the American troops and his first act was to clear the bay of the British fleet.

It proved not difficult, for with the French fleet in the west, middle and east, the British ships were burned or blown up.

The next plan was that there should be effected a landing by the French marines on the west side and of the Americans on the east side of the island.

The British were completely trapped.

Suddenly Lord Howe appeared in sight off Point Judith. D'Estang, in order not to be trapped himself, put to sea to meet Howe. A storm arose; both fleets were forced into harbor.

Meanwhile Sullivan had advanced down the east side of the island. D'Estang returned to Newport, not with the intention of helping Sullivan, but to tell him he would go to Boston to refit. Great was the discouragement of Sullivan. Two things were to be done: to storm the British fleet or to relent. To storm was out of the question. Retreat began on August 29 and the so-called Battle of Rhode Island was nothing more than a spirited repulse of the Americans.

The effect, however, on the British was that it made them cautious; they saw what they had to deal with in the Rhode Islanders.

TRENTON, 1777.

At Trenton in 1777 a considerable portion of Washington's army consisted of Colonel Hitchcock's brigade, formed of three Rhode Island regiments. Hitchcock, Varnum and Lippitt. These men took part in the action of the famous Creek; joined in the fateful march the following night and fought at Princeton in the morning. After the contest and on the field of battle, General Washington taking Hitchcock's hand, expressed high admiration of his conduct and of his troops, and desired him to convey his thanks to the brigade.

It is to the honor of Rhode Island that she gave to the Continental Army, commanded by General Washington, the only general, General Greene, who served with him continuously for the eight years of the war. His campaign at the South brought out his intellectual qualities, his military genius, and characterized him as one of the foremost strategists of warfare.

WASHINGTON VISITS NEWPORT.

On one of his visits to Newport, a great ball was given in his honor. At this ball Washington, choosing for a partner the radiant Margaret Champlin, asked her to select the dance. She selected "A Successful Campaign." It proved a successful campaign. Washington departed westward, and on October 14, 1781, Yorktown, into which Nathaniel Greene had forced Cornwallis, was taken by assault with Stephen Olney of Rhode Island commanding the detachment at the head of the storming column.

ACTS OF REBELLION.

Consider the acts of rebellion in the little colony. The sinking of the cruiser Liberty, the burning of the Gaspee in 1772, Brown's Rebellion, seizure of gunpowder in the West Indies, the movement of the colony for a general congress in 1774, the Declaration of Independence, May 4, 1776, the earliest renunciation of allegiance to the Crown. All these acts were political and bring out the fact that Rhode Island was foremost in asserting the rights which we now enjoy.

WHAT OUR NAVY OWES RHODE ISLAND.

Our navy, which is the pride of our nation, must look for its origin to our sturdy Rhode Island.

At the opening of the Revolution, Rhode Island foresaw the importance of preparing for the great conflict on the water.

On August 26, 1775, the General Assembly of Rhode Island urged its delegates to use their whole influence at the next congress for building, at the continental expense, a fleet of sufficient force for

the protection of the colonies. The continental congress was somewhat aghast at the prospect of meeting England's vast naval power on the sea, but was inspired by the confidence of Rhode Island and soon after the presentation of the resolutions, several vessels were ordered and a marine committee appointed. Before the end of the year, a considerable fleet was authorized at an estimated cost of \$850,000.

In looking for a commander, the committee naturally turned to the community that urged the inauguration of the navy. Esek Hopkins was the unanimous choice.

Early in January, 1776, Esek Hopkins, commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy, was rowed to the flagship, the Alfred, and took command of a fleet of eight vessels. As he reached the deck of the Alfred, First Lieutenant John Paul Jones hoisted a yellow silk flag bearing upon it, "a lively representation of a rattlesnake," and the motto, "Don't tread upon me." As the flag reached the masthead, it was saluted by the guns on the ships and on the shore, as well as by the cheer of the spectators.

With this ceremony, the Continental Navy went into commission and Hopkins had the honor of first hoisting an American flag in defiance of England's Navy.

WAR OF 1812.

Rhode Island as a State took no part in the War of 1812.

She was entirely taken up with manufacturing—progress in manufacturing was enormous. In 1815 she produced 27,840,000 yards of cloth.

When the war with Great Britain was declared, Rhode Island was emphatic in protest. The town of Providence tolled its bells and lowered its flags.

Rhode Island, although refusing to sanction the War of 1812, furnished in the person of Oliver Hazard Perry of South Kingston, the hero of Lake Erie.

We quote from the Providence Journal of September 11, 1910, the following account of the centenary of Perry's victory, which will be observed in 1913:

"Rhode Island has very lively interest in the monument to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, which is to be erected at Put-in-Bay, O., in celebration of the centennial of his victory over the British fleet on Lake Erie.

"September 10, 1910, was the 97th anniversary of that memorable contest, and representatives from this State participated in the celebration held at Put-in-Bay, while meeting the representatives of the other States which are participating in the erection of the memorial.

"Work on this monument is to begin soon, and it is to be ready for dedication on the 100th anniversary, three years hence.

"Eight States are participating in the affair, Rhode Island as

the birthplace of Perry; Kentucky, because the naval triumph made possible the passing of Kentucky troops across Lake Erie into Michigan, where they forced the British troops out of the City of Detroit and practically ended the war, and the lake bordering States of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, New York and Ohio.

"Put-in-Bay Island, where the shaft is to be erected, is really a misnomer, for Put-in-Bay into which Commodore Perry shelved his fleet is only the water which cuts the island in twain.

"The architect's plan is that the monument be of service as well as of ornament, and he proposes to make it a lighthouse, a wireless station, a meteorological station combined also with a general fisheries exhibit.

"The monument will be 375 feet in height and to lend an appearance of still greater height it will be erected on a raised terrace. The monument will be located at the center of an eight-spoked decorative garden effect, which will serve as approaches. The eight-spoked wheel represents the accurate points of the mariner's compass and through the center of the structure the time meridian will pass in a diagonal shape.

"Fronting to the northwest, there will stretch the monumental approach and stairs to the terrace. At the door of the stairs in the center is the crowning glory of the monument—a heroic statue of Commodore Perry in splendid size. It will overlook in a direct way the waters which formed the battle-ground of the magnificent victory that he heralded to the citizens of his country in the never-to-be-forgotten words: 'We have met the enemy and they are ours.'

"Perry's old flagship Niagara, to which he went in a rowboat after his first flagship, the Lawrence, had been riddled by the enemy's shells, is now sunk in the harbor at Erie, Pa. The famous Niagara will be raised and reconstructed and will play an important part in the celebration. Replicas of other vessels in the victorious fleet will also be made."

The resolution to make the appropriation to the monument was brought before the State Legislature and to the credit of the loyalty of Rhode Island to her worthy son, not a dissenting vote was cast.

DORR REBELLION.

Originally in the four Rhode Island towns suffrage was given to the property holder. When Rhode Island life expanded, when to agriculture was added commerce, and when to commerce was added manufactures, a readjustment was requested, one that would admit to a share of power the newer element.

The property holder refused readjustment. Their close corporation based upon property they guarded from profanation as jealously as had the Puritans their close corporation based upon religion. In Massachusetts it took a revocation of charter to get rid of religion

exclusiveness. In Rhode Island it took a rebellion—the rebellion headed by Thomas W. Dorr.

The movement which culminated in the Dorr revolt was directed principally against the restriction on the suffrage, but it also was directed against inequality of town representation in the General Assembly. Providence by the close of the Revolution had so gained in population as to entitle it to the same representation as Newport. As a fact, it had four representatives, and Newport had six. The plea of Dorr for a constitution was productive of no considerable effect. Time sped. At last action followed.

Citizens grew alarmed and armed themselves. General Blodgett was in charge of the Law and Order League. One morning orders were given by an employer in the Arcade to ship his goods to Boston. Fathers sent their daughters out of the city. The aggressive party threatened to seize the State Government and the Arsenal. All the Law and Order men began to join military companies. An organization was formed in each of the six wards (1842). About that time, the Governor of Massachusetts came to this city and spoke in behalf of Dorr. Many New Yorkers also sympathized with him.

Dorr took two cannon from the United Artillery and intended to plant them so as to take the arsenal. That night the signal for the meeting of Law and Order men was three taps on another bell. The next morning the companies moved on up to the position of the Dorrites on Atwells avenue and Dorr retreated. The State called on the President for aid and Mr. Tyler sent a company of light artillery. Dorr took up a place in Chepachet Hill and dared the State to remove him. When Rhode Island troops arrived they could see nothing of Dorr. Dorr had gone into Connecticut. He was afterwards arrested, tried for high treason and sentenced for life. He was soon pardoned and lived to see the principles for which he fought secured later by order and legislature.

RHODE ISLAND IN THE REBELLION.

Rhode Island, although a small part of this great country of ours, took a prominent part in the War of the Rebellion, which led to the freeing of the slaves and to making them citizens of the United States.

When the President's call for troops reached Providence, Rhode Island's War Governor, William Sprague, began to make preparations to go toward the aid of the Government.

A few days later one thousand strong left Providence for Washington, where they were enlisted for three months service, but they remained to take part in the first battle of Bull Run. After the battle they returned to Providence, where they were greeted by citizens.

On the 25th of May, a dispatch was received announcing that more troops were needed to defend Washington. At one o'clock an order was received from Governor Sprague to organize the Tenth

Regiment and at seven o'clock the regiment was reported to the Governor as ready for duty.

During the Battle of Gettysburg, the First Light Artillery distinguished itself, and only one gun of the twenty-four remains.

This gun is placed in the State House, but it is useless for firing purposes for a Confederate shell lodged in its muzzle. The other guns were captured or destroyed in the defence of Little Round Top, the key of the Union position at Gettysburg.

Rhode Island sent many prominent generals, among whom are General Burnside, who commanded the Rhode Island troops and General Greene, who was a descendant of General Greene, who fought in the Revolution.

The war dragged on until 1865, when Richmond surrendered. This was accepted as equivalent to the successful termination of the war. In the midst of the rejoicing, however, came the sad news of the assassination of President Lincoln. No President ever held so closely to the heart of the people as Lincoln did. In Providence all rejoicing ceased and the city draped in a mourning garb, which testified to a sorrow more deep and more sincere than has at any other time been felt in our city.

Rhode Island gave an example to the other States to follow, for although too small to supply men, she gave the Government aid when it needed it, and in so doing, led the other States to give aid all through the struggle.

DATES.

- 1636. June—Providence settled by Roger Williams.
- 1638. March 24—Aquidneck purchased and Portsmouth settled.
- 1640. Lenthall School, first school in America supported by taxation.
- 1641. Richard Smith settled at what is now Wickford.
- 1648. Aquidneck changed to Rhode Island.
- 1649. Providence made a town.
- 1652. General Assembly abolished slavery.
- 1662. Indian money abolished.
- 1663. Providence Plantation ceased to exist by Charles II Charter.
- 1663. Seal of Rhode Island adopted—Anchor.
- 1664. May 4—Block Island admitted a part of the Colony of Rhode Island.
- 1664-1665. Western boundary line settled by royal decree.
- 1703. Colony divided into counties.
- 1704. Westminster street built.
- 1724-1725. Brickmaking introduced.
- 1727. Boundary line between Rhode Island and Connecticut settled.
- 1749. First lighthouse erected in America at Beaver Tail Point.

- 1762. First newspaper—Providence Gazette and County Journal.
- 1772. June 10—Burning of the Gaspee.
- 1775. March—Over 300 pounds of tea were burned at Market Square.
- 1790. Cotton industry—first mill at Pawtucket.
- 1792. First steamboat seen in Providence water was the Experiment, built by a Providence merchant, Elizah Ormsbee.
- 1828. Blackstone Canal opened.
- 1866. Pawtuxet River used for our water supply.

CATHOLICITY IN RHODE ISLAND.

We first hear of Catholics in Rhode Island, when the French troops came to Newport.

Mass was said in Newport in the State House.

Catholics first colonized in Newport, second in Bristol, and third in Providence.

First Mass in Providence, April 14, 1828, in Mechanics Hall, by Bishop Fenwick of Boston.

Diocese of Hartford founded in 1844. First Bishop, Bishop Tyler. Diocese divided in 1872.

First Bishop of Providence, Bishop Hendricken. Second Bishop, Bishop Harkins.

Bishop Harkins was consecrated April 14, 1887. Since he assumed administration of the diocese it has progressed rapidly. The Bishop's keen interest in educational matters has brought the schools to a standard second to none in the country.

The twenty-fourth anniversary of the consecration of our Bishop was observed by a reception tendered him by the Catholic Clubs of the city. Our Right Reverend Bishop took this occasion to announce to that loyal body the great honor that our Holy Father Pope Pius X, had conferred on Right Reverend Monsignor Doran. The congratulations that the Monsignor received were evidences of the high esteem that the people of Providence have for him. We quote from the Providence Visitor the following statistics of the diocese:

"Since Bishop Harkins' coming to Providence, the Diocese of Providence has progressed with rapid strides, until today there is a diocesan clergy of 176 priests, 77 churches, 15 stations and 41 chapels. Bishop Harkins is the spiritual shepherd of 251,000 souls. There were thirteen churches in the city of Providence when Bishop Harkins assumed the direction of the diocese. There are 22 today. There are 24 religious orders in the diocese. The Church has progressed likewise in the rest of the diocese.

"Schools have been erected, educational and charitable institutions have been organized and perfected, until the Diocese of Providence is well in the forefront of the dioceses in the country."

Bishop Harkins in his first official visit to Saint Joseph's Church

in 1887, spoke on "Catholic Education," which we quote in part from the Providence Visitor of 1887:

"Catholic education is something which presents itself very forcibly to all Catholics. We are often asked why we make sacrifices for the establishment of schools, and this in the face of a system of education which is a source of pride, and why we wish to impose the burden of supporting a separate and costly system of education, especially designed for the education of Catholics. It is a fair question to ask, and comes with an added force when we are asked to make sacrifices in aid of the establishment of a system of Catholic education. It is not sufficient that we believe in the system theoretically. The Church demands Catholic schools. From a council of the Church, held over fifty years ago, at a time when few laws were passed in regard to the ecclesiastical matters in this country, down to the last council held at Baltimore, this law has been in force.

"Underlying all the arguments that might be advanced in favor of the system of Catholic education is the consideration that we desire Catholic schools, because we wish to bring up our children to be Catholics. We do not believe that there is no future life and that our existence ends in the grave. We make no complaint against the public schools, as they at present exist. We simply say they are defective. They are not calculated to make Catholics, and we believe in bringing up our children to be faithful to religion. If you had a son whom you wished to be educated for a military life, you would not send him to this school and that school to learn this science and that science indiscriminately, but you would send him to a military school in which he would receive instruction to that one end, namely, to educate him in military science. So likewise with a boy desirous of receiving an education in naval science. If we acted otherwise we would be imprudent and unfaithful did we not fit him for the calling in which lay his life work. In the same way our children are destined to live as Catholics, therefore, do we send them to the Catholic school in order that they might become instructed in the principles of Catholicity.

"Some will say we think best to send our children to the public school, they can learn their religion in the Sunday school and home. To this statement, I answer, it is not possible to give science in one place and religion in another. We cannot study science without finding that religion is the grand and underlying principle. There is no history in which is not recorded the plan of Almighty God in the management of the world. All studies, even the so-called positive sciences, point out the limits of religion.

"A father of the Church said that some received education in order to display it, and that was vanity; others, to edify, and that was charity; and others in order to be edified, and that was Heavenly prudence. This last is the keystone of Catholic education and that principle can only be learned from religious instruction, and that religious instruction is found in our Catholic schools."